

B. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 11 as follows:

At various points in the program, a last use of a variable that references an object is made. One of these points is statement **170**. While only one point is shown in program stack **125**, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that many such points may exist in a given program when particular variables are no longer used (i.e., some variables may no longer be used while other variables continue to be used). Even though the variables are no longer used, program stack **125** continues to reference the unused variables. The continued reference by such variables to such no-longer-used objects results in garbage collector **100** maintaining (i.e., not removing) the memory used by the no-longer-used objects within heap **110**, notwithstanding the fact that there may be no objects needing the objects and variables. In the example shown, program stack **125** performs memory hungry computation **180**. Even if the middleware environment, such as a Java Virtual Machine, needs additional memory to perform the computation, it is unable to identify the no-longer-used objects as "garbage" until after the computation is performed (i.e., at the end of the procedure [[180]] **190** which is often identified with a closing brace ())).